

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 00818 041302Z

65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /094 W
----- 091961

O P 040907Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4338

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK 435

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 818

E.O. 11652\$ GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, MPOL, BY, RW

SUBJECT: MILITARY COUP IN BURUNDI

REF (A) STATE 270869 (B) BUJUMBURA 953 (C) BUJUMBURA 955

1. FONMIN SECGEN RENZAHO CONFIRMED TO ME THIS MORNING THAT DELEGATION HAD ARRIVED FROM BUJUMBURA YESTERDAY TO ASSURE GOR OF NEW REGIME'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS (REF A). GOR RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AND AGREED TO RECOGNIZE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HEADED BY COL BAGAZA. ANNOUNCEMENT NOW BEING CARRIED ON RADIO RWANDA.

2. BURUNDI DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY LT COL NZAMBIMANA, AND RENZAHO ECHOED SPECULATION REPORTED REFTTEL (B) THAT NZAMBIMANA WAS LEADING CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF OF STATE -- "THE ONLY INTELLIGENT ONE ON THE COUNCIL," ACCORDING TO RENZAHO. SECGEN EXPRESSED DARKLY NEGATIVE VIEW, ON THE OTHER HAND, OF COL BAGAZA, WHO HE SAID WAS TOO YOUNG TO RUN THE SHOW AND TOO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KIGALI 00818 041302Z

CLOSE A RELATIVE OF MICOMBERO (REF C) TO BE TRUSTED.

3. I RECITED TO RENZAHU SOME OF EMBASSY BUJUMBURA'S ANALYSIS OF COUP ORIGINS AND ITS IMPRESSIONS OF COUP-MAKERS' ATTITUDES ON ETHNIC QUESTION. RENZAHU SEEMED SOMEWHAT LESS ANXIOUS THAN PREVIOUSLY, BUT HE REFUSED TO BE COMPLETELY REASSURED: IT WAS AFTER ALL, HE OBSERVED, NOT TUTSI CIVILIANS BUT RATHER THESE VERY SAME TUTSI OFFICERS WHO HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVIOUS MASSACRES OF HUTUS. I NOTED THAT INITIAL FRIENDLY GESTURES AND NEW REGIME OUGHT NEVERTHELESS TO HAVE EASED RWANDAN WORRIES SOMEWHAT (AND, I INSISTED, LESSENER PRESSURES FROM RWANDAN ARMY OFFICERS FOR NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BUT RENZAHU MERELY SHOOK HIS HEAD).

4. RENZAHU COMPLAINED THAT REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO HOW BURUNDI SHOULD BE GOVERNED AND HOW IT WOULD ALIGN ITSELF INTERNATIONALLY REMAINED BOSCURE. SO FAR, COMMUNIQUEES CONTAINED NO SOLID CLUE AS TO POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF NEW REGIME. RENZAHU ATTRIBUTED THIS TO SHEER INEPTNESS, CITING AS PRIME EXAMPLE COUNCIL'S "FOOLISH" FAILURE TO ABOLISH UPRONA ONCE AND FOR ALL.

.5. A FINAL POINT: RENZAHU SAID AMBASSADOR TO RWANDA KAYIBIGI WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE RECALLED TO BUJUMBURA FOR A SENIOR GOVT POSITION.
CRIGLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KIGALI00818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760411-0920
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761182/aaaactab.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 270869, 76 BUJUMBURA 953, 76 BUJUMBURA 955
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY COUP IN BURUNDI
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, MPOL, BY, RW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006